

USSN: 10/600,839

Art Unit: 1742

Response to Office action mailed 06/30/2005

Remarks

The indication that the claims 1-5, and 7-48 are allowable is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner's sole remaining objection is that claim 6 as previously amended was directed to subject matter not originally disclosed.

It is noted that the claims form part of the specification as a whole, and the applicants can rely on subject matter disclosed in the claims as filed to provide support an amendment to the specification. Claim 6, as originally filed, stated that the "structure" of claim 5 was not decomposed during foaming, debinding and sintering.

The "structure" referred to in claim 5 was introduced as being "another structure" in which "the foaming is done" and said to be a "solid component or porous body". It would be immediately apparent to one skilled in the art on referring to the paragraph starting at line 6, page 15, as originally filed, that the solid component or porous body was intended to be the substrate. The paragraph in question stated that the foaming could be performed in or on a substrate, and then gave examples of the substrate as being a plate, rod, tube in on "on other porous structure...or any other substrate" (emphasis added).

If the "structure" is not decomposed during foaming, debinding and sintering, as stated in original claim 6, it is inherent that it must remain intact after undergoing such steps. The new wording merely recites the feature as a positive rather than as a negative limitation. Accordingly, the paragraph on page 15 has been amended to state expressly that the substrate remains intact in order to provide express support for claim 6 as presently worded.

Newly amended claim 6 states that the substrate remains intact after the foaming etc. to produce a composite structure or coating. This new wording is entirely consistent with the paragraph noted, which as originally filed referred to the production of coatings or composite structures, and is consistent with original claim 6, which referred to a "composite component or material" forming the structure, which was not decomposed during foaming etc.

Also, it is noted that the Examiner's objection seems to relate mainly to the statement that the substrate is part of the obtained product. Claim 6, as amended, no longer states this.

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It is therefore believed that claim 6 is allowable in its amended form. Since claim 6 is dependent on claim 1, no new issues arise. It is therefore believed that the Examiner should be able to allow the application in its entirety.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and therefore allowance and reconsideration of this application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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